

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Longfellow National Historic Site 2006



For students grades 3-6

WITHIN THE WALLS OF CASTLE CRAIGIE

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow valued, respected, and drew inspiration from all kinds of people. He turned the lessons he learned from people in his life into poems that inspired people around the world. This two - hour program introduces students to some of the people who influenced Longfellow's poetry, challenges them to speculate on why Longfellow's poetry captured the country's imagination, and allows students to try their own hand at an expressive genre (poetry or drawing). The program includes two components:

- 1) A **ranger- led tour of the Longfellow House** uses poetry and artifacts in the house to reveal stories about the people who influenced Longfellow to write some of his most popular poems (*The Village Blacksmith*, *To a Child*, *The Castle-Builder*, *The Children's Hour*, *From My Armchair*). Students read Longfellow poetry aloud as they move through the rooms in which the poems were written, and are challenged to interpret the reasons for Longfellow's popularity.
- 2) A **poetry writing workshop** in the historic Longfellow carriage barn encourages students to express their ideas through a flexible poetic form, while simultaneously preparing them for the house exploration or serving as a synthesizing experience at the close of the program.

Poetry writing workshop is offered in inclement weather.

OR

An **art - making activity** in the historic Longfellow landscape teaches students how the landscape functioned in the lives of Longfellow family members, and allows them to forge their own bond with the landscape and the stories it reveals. Students view facsimile copies of paintings and drawings made by Longfellow family members, then work with colored pencils to capture their sense of place.

Art-making activity is weather-dependent.

Ties to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

- History/Social Science - Standards 3.7b, 3.9 & 3.12
- English Language Arts - Standards 14 & 15
- Art/The Arts Discipline - Standard 3

For students grades 8+

ARCHITECTS OF FATE: A WALKING TOUR OF LONGFELLOW'S CAMBRIDGE

This interactive walking tour engages students in a two-hour exploration of the people, places, and events that shaped Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's thinking and influenced him to write poetry of social conscience. Students read poetry, study historic photographs, interpret resources in the built environment, and hear primary source accounts of issues related to slavery, the Civil War, immigration, and the building of the nation. Students are challenged to consider the context in which Longfellow lived and explain why he believed (and wrote popular poetry proclaiming) that we are all architects of fate. Following a ninety-minute walking tour, students are invited into the Longfellow Study to see the setting in which Longfellow wrote poems that captured the nation's imagination.

Ties to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

- History/Social Science - Standards USI.28 & USI.31
- English Language Arts - Standards 9 & 14

HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION

- Call Celena Illuzzi at 617 201 -7223, Monday - Thursday 8:00 to 4:30.
- Select the date for your program. Programs are offered:
March/April: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:15
May: Wednesdays at 9:15
- Space is limited. All tours are booked on a first come, first served basis.
- We can accommodate groups of 27 students per visit; 1:10 adult/student ratio required.
- All programs include pre- and post -visit teaching materials for classroom use.

